

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 have been pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Christofferson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,807,563).

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are amended, new claims 14-17, and, thus, claims 1-10 and 14-17 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTION

Elected and pending claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Christofferson (US Patent No. 6,807,563). Christofferson is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

The independent claims are 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Christofferson discusses "An automatic teleconferencing control system uses a trigger definition database to define trigger criteria and corresponding conference control commands for corresponding trigger functions" (Abstract). Christofferson discusses "the bridge analyzer 412 analyzes the media flows from the participants and searches for trigger criteria in the form of key words (or phonemes) 601. When those key words are detected, the bridge analyzer issues appropriate trigger control command(s) 602" (column 9, lines 1-5). Christofferson also discusses using "participant profile information," based upon which functions can be triggered (column 9, line 25 to column 10, line 4).

However, Christofferson discloses the teleconference is controlled by "establishing a trigger definition database in accordance with participant profiles set up for each participant station" (col. 2, lines 1-3). In other words, a system in Christofferson operates on a condition that a profile of the participant is stored in the participant's terminal in advance to analyze the media flow and to issue appropriate trigger commands. In other words, Christofferson fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's "***profile creation***." Christofferson fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, "**creating a profile of the user**."

Independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10, using claim 1 as an example, are amended for clarity as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A profile creation method for use in conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising ~~steps of:~~
 - providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;
 - monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords;
 - identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword, according to the monitoring; and
 - ~~storing~~ **creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category such that the category is correlated to the user** who sent the message to the virtual space.

In contrast to Christofferson, the claimed present invention provides, “**creating a profile of a user.**” In other words, Christofferson fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention’s, “~~storing~~ **creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category such that the category is correlated to the user** who sent the message to the virtual space,” because Christofferson is silent on creating the participant profile information based upon analyzing the media flows. For example, although Christofferson discusses, “the present system may automatically disconnect from the conference any user who utters a vulgarity,” Christofferson does not disclose or suggest, or provide any motivation to be modified, to create a profile for the user based upon the vulgar utterance (e.g., for example, the claimed present invention’s “**rating data that indicates harmfulness for each user**” - dependent claim 5).

Further, Christofferson’s “participant attribute monitoring 620 (with associated trigger criteria 621 and trigger control commands 622)” relates to using a participant profile to issue appropriate trigger commands (FIG. 9 and column 7, lines 55-60), and differs from the claimed present invention’s, “~~storing~~ **creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category such that the category is correlated to the user** who sent the message to the virtual space.”

According to MPEP 2131 guidance, "To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)." Therefore, Christofferson cannot anticipate the claimed present invention, because Christofferson fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, the claimed present invention's each and every element:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A profile creation method for use in conversation system ...
 - providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;
 - monitoring whether a message*** sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the ***keywords***;
 - identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message*** sent to the virtual space ***contains the keyword***, according to the monitoring; and
 - ~~storing~~***creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category such that the category is correlated to***
the user who sent the message to the virtual space (emphasis added).

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims and allowance of independent claims is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3-6

Further, the Office Action rejects dependent claims 3-6 based upon Christofferson column 6, lines 7-19, and column 8, line 62 to column 9, line 39, which discusses Christofferson's use of speech recognition to extract spoken words or sentences for testing against trigger criteria, and trigger criteria (personal profile information) and trigger commands based upon media flows from the participants. According to Christofferson column 6, lines 12-14, obscene or age-inappropriate words could be detected, however, Christofferson, for example, fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, ***"rating data that indicates harmfulness for each user."***

It is readily apparent that dependent claim 5's "said administration means ***updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent***" where ***"rating data ...***

indicates harmfulness for each user" is not disclosed or suggested (expressly or inherently) anywhere in Christofferson, because Christofferson detects only whether a spoken word was obscene, but does not rate the user who spoke the obscene word.

For example, in contrast to Christofferson, the claimed present invention provides:

3. (ORIGINAL) The profile creation system as set forth in claim 2, wherein
said user table ***stores valid period and time at which the keyword was sent***, in addition to the users, the keywords, and the categories;
said administration means further obtains from the conversation system the time at which the message containing the keyword was sent,
said administration means writing in said user table the time of the message and the valid period of the message, in addition to the keyword sender, the keyword and the category, and ***deleting an entry whose valid period since the time of message has expired***.

Christofferson is silent on any "***valid period and time at which the keyword was sent***."

For example, in contrast to Christofferson, the claimed present invention provides:

4. (ORIGINAL) The profile creation system as set forth in claim 2, wherein
said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and message senders whose messages are related to the keywords; and
said administration means creates a conversation log in the conversation space, ***obtains from the conversation log and the conversation system the senders of messages that were sent before and/or after the message containing the keyword was sent***, and writes in said user table the ***senders as related users, such that the related users are correlated with the keywords***.

Therefore, dependent claims 3-6 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own and/or are at least patentably distinguishing over Christofferson due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

NEW DEPENDENT CLAIMS 14-17

In contrast to Christofferson, the claimed present invention as recited in dependent claims 14-17, using claims 14-15 as examples provides:

14. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined categories are ***a personal interest and a personal characteristic***, and the method further comprises:

providing message-attribute-based virtual space services to users in the virtual conversation space ***according to the profile of the user created based upon the correlating of the personal interest and the personal characteristic predetermined categories to the user.***

15. (NEW) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
rating the user according to the personal interest and the personal characteristic categories correlated to the user based upon the message transmitted by the user; and

providing the rating to the users as one of the message-attribute-based virtual space services.

Support for the new dependent claims 14 and 16 can be found, for example, in page 14, line 15 to page 15, line 4; and page 35, line 2 to page 36, line 2, of the present Application.

Support for the new dependent claims 15 and 17, including dependent claim 5, can be found, for example, in page 17, line 21 to page 18, line 4, of the present Application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims, including new dependent claims 14-17, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

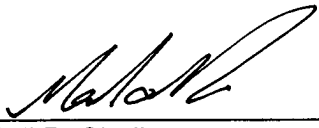
In view of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 30, 2005

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